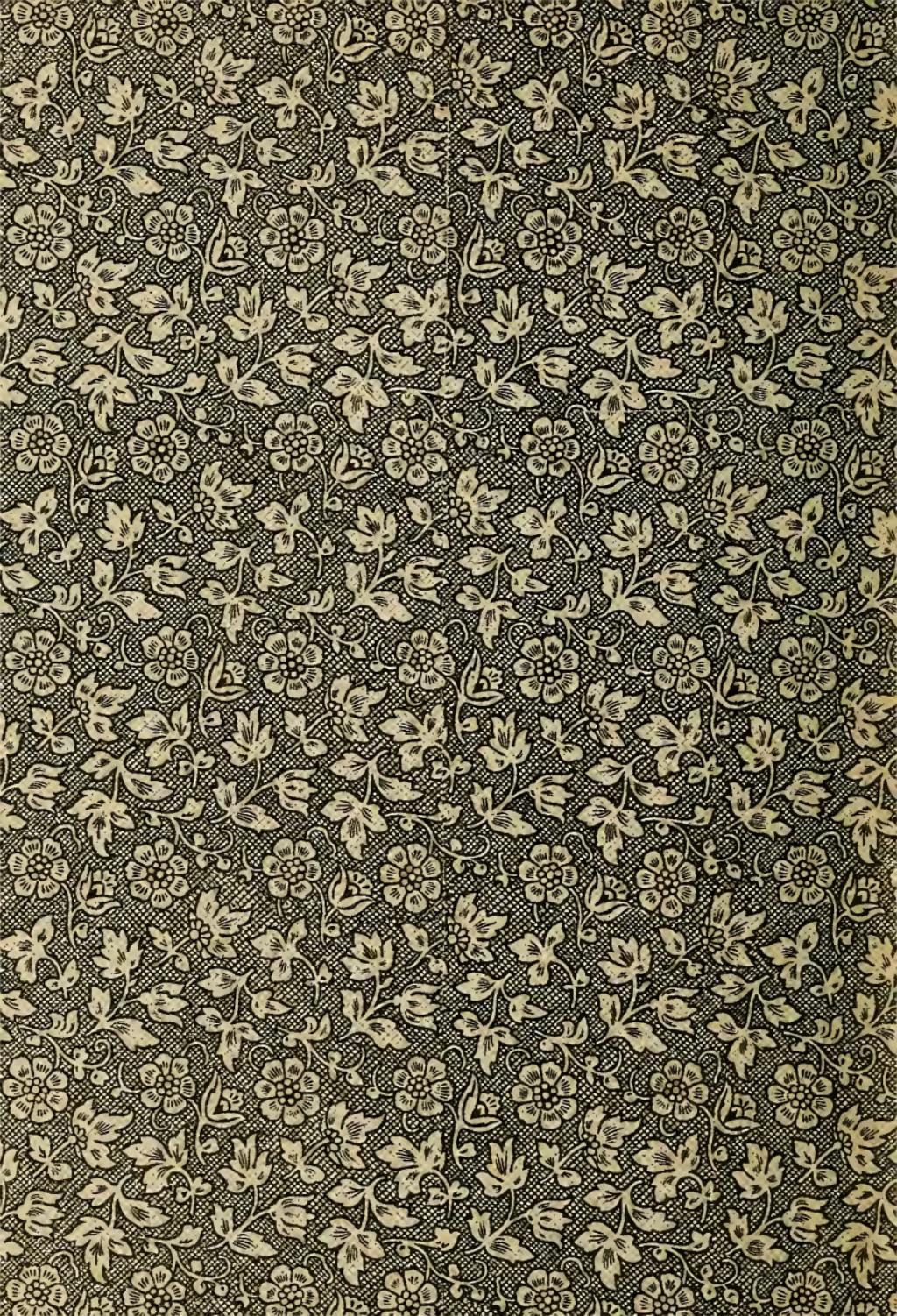


Lincoln Centennial  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY







M 1830



# The Lincoln Centennial



LINCOLN CENTENARY MEDAL

Designed by Roiné

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# Columbia University

## THE LINCOLN CENTENNIAL

### THE ROBERT HEWITT COLLECTION OF MEDALLIC LINCOLNIANA

DESCRIBED BY  
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ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF LATIN

PUBLISHED BY  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY  
FEBRUARY 12TH, 1909

medallic work of their contemporaries, themselves painters and sculptors of the first rank, from Vittore Pisano of Verona, commonly known as Pisanello, and Francesco Francia of Bologna down to the great Benvenuto Cellini. In this period, indeed, "art for art's sake" was the motive. The medallist was above all an artist, and the medal a masterwork, tho an humble one, of art. Not so later; for art may never rise above the highest genius of its age, while die-engraving belongs to all times. Consequently, with few illustrious exceptions, the medal ceased to be a work of art, the greater artists left it to more humble craftsmen, and the commemorative and historical purpose alone became supreme, when indeed this too was not subordinated to baser commercial motives.

### Medallic Lincolniana

We thus see that the medal may be regarded from a two-fold point of view,—as a work of art and as a historical document. It is in this latter aspect, mainly, that we must view the present collection. The medals of Lincoln will not appeal to the art-lover as such, for the reason that medallic art in this country during and after the Civil War was at a low grade. Nor need we feel any humiliation therein. It was the "Storm and Stress" period of our national existence. The very maintenance of the Union was at stake, and men's thoughts were turned to more serious considerations than ideals of

beauty expressed in terms of form. Even had there been great artists among us, their genius would not have been called into activity. This was true, also, of the period of reconstruction that followed. The artistic sense of a nation is slow to find expression, and it is only in recent years that artistic ideals have begun to assert themselves strongly in America. This Lincoln Centennial, besides being a spontaneous manifestation of the nation's reverence for its Hero and Martyr, has done great service to the cause of medallic art in this country, in inspiring two medals [Nos. 1 and 6] of Abraham Lincoln, the work of the sculptor Jules Edouard Roiné of Paris; which for mastery of technique and perfection of portraiture and design command the highest admiration. In these at last we find artist and die-cutter reunited; and the noble features of Lincoln, so long distorted by the incompetent hands of secondary artisans, are here placed before us in all their realism, yet with such a masterly conception of the living man, that the greatness of mind of this Master of Men, the benevolence of the lover of his kind, the delicate humor of his nature, speak forth from the cold metal. They should serve as models for the medallist of the future.

If art is absent in most of the specimens here shown, there is historical value in every piece. And the tragic end of Lincoln adds a pathetic interest to many. It should be noted that a considerable number of them are not medals at all, but campaign tokens, tradesmen's

cards, metallic badges and the like. Yet even the most insignificant of these is not lacking in interest to the patriot and the student of history. It is very remarkable, too, that not less than seven hundred pieces are known which either bear Lincoln's head or refer directly or indirectly to him; and of these the present collection contains the large majority, including *all* the more interesting types, many of which are shown in several metals. As far as the present writer is aware, no one man in public life *except Napoleon* has such a medallic record to his credit.

### The Robert Hewitt Collection

Such a complete collection as the present one, and *in such condition of preservation*, could hardly be gathered to-day, for the earlier specimens were obtained at the very time of issue and have suffered no damage by passing from hand to hand. It was in the year 1858 that Mr. Hewitt, then a boy at school, turned his attention to American medals. The story of how he began his Lincoln collection merits the telling, for it may inspire the boys and girls of to-day to gather *our* contemporary pieces, which perhaps, in their later years, will become rare historic souvenirs. Like other boys, Mr. Hewitt was collecting coins of all sorts such as could be obtained from the various tradespeople who could not pass foreign coins as current money, and having gathered perhaps fifty or a hundred of these,

his interest was one day attracted by a small piece which one of his schoolmates was trying to decipher. A neighbor living on Twenty-first street was George Bancroft, the historian ; and one afternoon on his return from Central Park—Bancroft was one of the first equestrians to ride in the park—young Hewitt accosted him and asked if he could identify the small copper piece. They proceeded together to the historian's library, where, after some delving into books, it was determined as an insignificant coin of some German principality. Bancroft suggested that the American boy would do well to study the coins and medals of his own country. This incident led Mr. Hewitt to take up the special study of Americana, and laid the foundations of the present collection. The strong feeling on the slavery question, the Lincoln campaign of 1860, the Civil War, the second election in 1864, the assassination of the President and the crowding events immediately following gave Mr. Hewitt ample opportunities to fill his cabinet with interesting specimens as fast as they appeared, in perfect condition and at little expense. As the young man's enthusiasm wore itself out, the collection was laid away in a safe, where it remained untouched for thirty years. Then the old love revived, and Mr. Hewitt set himself to add whatever had been made since the war and whatever he could obtain that was lacking in his earlier collection. He is at present engaged in compiling a complete catalog of medallic Lincolniana.

## The Campaign of 1860

We may now examine, in the light of history, the more interesting and important pieces here exhibited, in their relation to Lincoln's public career. A brief notice of the events that occasioned the various issues will perhaps be useful. Lincoln appeared in national politics in the campaign of 1856. The first Republican National Convention, held in that year, nominated John C. Frémont for President, on the platform of the older Free Soil Party: *Free Soil, Free Speech, Free Labor and Free Men.* Lincoln received 110 votes for Vice-President but was defeated for the nomination. Little daunted, he supported the nominees with vigor, but the Democrats won the election. It is interesting to note that the same motto, slightly altered, still appears on a medal of the next campaign, showing the heads of Lincoln and Hamlin and the inscription FREE SOIL, FREE SPEECH, FREE LABOR AND ETERNAL PROGRESSION.

The second Republican National Convention, held at Chicago on May 18th, 1860, named Lincoln as its candidate for President, with Hannibal Hamlin, of Maine, for Vice-President; and tho the emancipation of the slaves was no part of the program, and Lincoln himself, much as he abhorred the institution of slavery, would not have favored any such proposition at the time, yet the men of America could accept no issue but

pro-slavery or anti-slavery in determining their votes. The opposition to Lincoln,—or rather to his party and its principles,—was hopelessly divided. The old-time Whigs nominated John Bell, the northern Democrats had a candidate in Lincoln's adversary in debate, Stephen A. Douglas, while the pro-slavery wing of the party put forward John C. Breckenridge. It was a bitter campaign, but Lincoln and Hamlin received a heavy majority of the electoral vote.

There are many interesting souvenirs of this campaign. The earliest is a Republican medal (No. 51), with no direct reference to the candidate:

*Obv.* An inverted wreath inclosing the inscription in four lines: NOT ONE CENT FOR SLAVERY. Outside of wreath: MILLIONS FOR FREEDOM. 1860.

*Rev.* Eagle with outstretched wings, holding three arrows in his talons. SVCCESS TO REPVBLICAN PRINCIPLES.

The legend of the obverse is, of course, a variation of the old Revolutionary watchword: "Millions for defense, not one cent for tribute." This medal was struck at Waterbury, Connecticut, for distribution to the political clubs, but the die was broken after a few hundred had been made, and another, slightly different (No. 51a), was substituted.

Emanating from the same source is a brass medal (No. 42) designed to be worn on the lapel of the coat

as a campaign badge by the supporters of Lincoln and Hamlin. Observe that Lincoln was still beardless during this campaign; it was only afterwards, as president, that he allowed his beard to grow.

*Obv.* Beardless bust facing right Legend: HON. ABRAHAM LINCOLN. Below the bust, 1860. The die-sinkers name in small letters below the shoulder: ELLIS.

*Rev.* A country scene representing Lincoln and a helper engaged in splitting rails, with a log cabin on the right: THE RAIL SPLITTER OF THE WEST.

Those who were young men in 1860 will perhaps recall the torch-light processions of the "Wide-awakes" as some organizations of Lincoln and Hamlin enthusiasts called themselves. They wore oil-cloth capes of red, white and blue,—a very necessary protection for their clothing, since the 'metallic oil' (as it was then called) from their torches dripped ruinously over their shoulders as they marched, cheering and singing, carrying or drawing small log cabins mounted on wheels, and some, dressed as wood-choppers, bearing rails "split by old Abe."

(No. 41.) *Obv.* A "Wide-awake wearing a club uniform and carrying a lantern. HARTFORD WIDE-AWAKES.

*Rev.* A "Wide-awake" carrying a torch. ORGANIZED MARCH 1860.

There are many other medals of this campaign in the Hewitt collection, but two only need claim special attention.

(Nos. 24, 25, 26.) *Obv.* Large draped beardless bust of Lincoln facing r. ABRAHAM LINCOLN. At the right of the bust in small letters, KEY F.

*Rev.* Two crossed fence-rails. THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE, 1860, LINCOLN AND HAMLIN, FREEDOM AND PROTECTION.

(No. 27.) *Obv.* As the reverse of the last.

*Rev.* A spreadeagle with four arrows in his talons, within a circle of 24 stars.

Besides the medals and badges of the period, we find here also an interesting group of campaign "ferrotypes," bearing on one side the head of Lincoln, and on the other that of Hamlin. The ferrotype was an improvement of the older daguerreotype, and these little badges are the prototype of the modern campaign button. The portraits were set in brass rims struck from dies, with an appropriate inscription around the rim (Nos. 44, 50.) As an example:

(No. 44.) *Obv.* ABRAHAM LINCOLN. FREE SOIL AND FREE MEN about a ferrotype of Lincoln facing left.

*Rev.* HANNIBAL HAMLIN. FREE SPEECH about a full-faced ferrotype of Hamlin.

We should not leave the memorable First Campaign without noticing two curious medals (Nos. 53, 54), bearing on opposite sides the effigies of the *rival* candidates.

*Obv.* Draped beardless bust of Lincoln surrounded by a circle. FOR PRESIDENT, ABRAHAM LINCOLN OF ILL.

*Rev.* Draped bust of Douglas. FOR PRESIDENT  
STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS OF ILL.

*Obv.* As last.

*Rev.* Bust of Bell, facing left.

These can hardly have been accidental hybrids, or "mules" as collectors call them; more likely they were intended for the vacillating voter. It will be observed that the combination of Lincoln and Breckinridge is wanting. But he was the exponent of slavery, and these pieces were made in the North, where there were few if any outspoken advocates of slavery.

Of tradesmen's tokens, or 'cards,' we shall speak below as a group by themselves.

## The War Period

Lincoln was now president, Sumter had fallen, and the war was in full progress. It was certainly not a time to look for an output of medals. History was in the making, not ready for recording; yet several interesting pieces should be noted.

(Nos. 22, 23.) *Obv.* In a panel stands a soldier holding a musket, with a distant view of the Capitol at Washington. On the left, in a circle, a bearded bust of Lincoln; on the right, in a circle, a shield inscribed: VNION. Around the edge, FIRST DEFENDERS. WASHINGTON. APRIL 18, 1861.

*Rev.* Five linked rings, each with an inscription. LOGAN GUARDS. RINGOLD LIGHT ARTILLERY. WASHINGTON ARTILLERISTS. ALLEN INFANTRY. NATIONAL LIGHT INFANTRY.

(No. 40.) *Obv.* Draped bearded bust facing right. ABRAHAM LINCOLN, PRESIDENT U. S. WAR OF 1861.  
*Rev.* A plain surface, with small circle at top intended for piercing.

Large numbers of this medal were sold during the Civil War by army sutlers to the soldiers, whose names and regiments could be engraved or scratched on the reverse. They thus served as a means of identifying the wearer if he lost his life on the field.

(Nos. 28, 29.) *Obv.* Draped busts of Lincoln and Hamlin to left. LINCOLN AND HAMLIN.

*Rev.* Around the edge: WE WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF ANY STATE. In the center in eleven lines: THE FALL OF SUMTER WILL BE AVENGED, THE REBELLION CRUSHED, AND THE HONOR AND INTEGRITY OF THE UNITED STATES SHALL BE MAINTAINED, 1861.

(No. 43.) *Obv.* Lincoln and his helper engaged in splitting rails in front of a log cabin. THE RAILSPLITTERS OF THE WEST.

*Rev.* A United States shield. WAR FOR THE UNION. 1863.

The obverse of this medal was already used in the 1860 Campaign. (See above, p. 10.)

(No. 35.) *Obv.* Bearded bust right. ABR'M LINCOLN—A FOE TO TRAITORS.

*Rev.* NO COMPROMISE WITH ARMED REBELS. MAY THE UNION FLOURISH.

(No. 47.) *Obv.* Draped beardless bust of Lincoln, facing r. ABRAHAM LINCOLN, BORN FEB. 12, 1809. Engraver's name: MERRIAM.

*Rev.* in ten lines: MADE FROM COPPER TAKEN FROM  
THE RUINS OF THE TURPENTINE WORKS, NEW-  
BERN, N.C., DESTROYED BY THE REBELS, MARCH  
14, 1862.

This is not, of course, contemporary with the event commemorated, but naturally belongs here.

In striking contrast with the medals that speak of war and devastation is the "Peace Medal" of 1862, one of a series struck by the United States government by act of Congress for distribution to the friendly chiefs of Indian tribes. As a present from the "Great White Father," these medals were highly prized by the recipients and were often worn on a chain around the neck of the chieftain. Indeed, examples in silver have come to light which are almost rubbed smooth from constant wear and handling. In this collection we find specimens both of the "Peace Medal" itself (Nos. 4, 7) and of the smaller reproduction placed on sale at the mint (Nos. 5, 8). The description is as follows :

*Obv.* Draped bust of Lincoln facing right. ABRAHAM LINCOLN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. 1862. In small letters, S. ELLIS DEL. SC. and PATENTED.

*Rev.* Landscape with an Indian plowing a corn-field; four children playing ball near a school-house; shipping at wharf; steamships, church and mountains in background —all on a disc, above which are two Indian warriors, one about to scalp a dead foe. Below, a squaw's head between a quiver full of arrows, a bow and a *calumet*.

The year 1862 is memorable for the Emancipation Proclamation. Two medals refer directly to this, and should stand here, though they were not coined until three years later, when this war-measure of reprisal could be regarded as a real victory of the age. It is curious to note that the first of the two bears the illogical formula EMANCIPATION OF SLAVERY, which was corrected in the second to ABOLITION OF SLAVERY. (Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12).

*Obv.* Draped bust facing r. ABRAHAM LINCOLN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, BORN FEB. 12th, 1809, DIED ASSASSINATED APRIL 15th, 1865.

*Rev.* In outer circle: WITH MALICE TOWARD NONE, WITH CHARITY FOR ALL—4th MARCH, 1865. In inner circle: EMANCIPATION (or ABOLITION) OF SLAVERY PROCLAIMED SEPTEMBER 22, 1862.

We find nothing bearing the date 1863, but for 1864 we have two documents referring to famous Union generals.

(No. 37.) *Obv.* Bust facing left in a circle of eight stars. ABRAHAM LINCOLN. 1864.

*Rev.* Full-faced military bust of Sherman. MAJ. GEN. W. T. SHERMAN.

(No. 38.) *Obv.* As last.

*Rev.* Similar bust of McClellan facing left in wreath of oak and laurel. MAJ. GEN. GEO. B. McCLELLAN.

## The Campaign of 1864

While the war was yet in progress, the term of office of Lincoln and Hamlin came to its end. At the Chi-

cago Republican Convention in June, 1864, Lincoln was re-nominated, with Andrew Johnson of Tennessee as his "running mate." The medals and tokens of this campaign well illustrate the public feeling of the time, and an unusually large number of them is shown in this collection. We have, first of all, a group of ferrotypes, corresponding to those of the first election, but with Johnson's portrait instead of Hamlin's. Among the medals proper, the following claim attention:

(Nos. 18, 19.) *Obv.* Small draped busts vis-a-vis in oval frames inscribed LINCOLN—JOHNSON. Above, a spread-eagle holds a ribbon inscribed FREEDOM TO ALL MEN. Below, a radiate shield inscribed WAR FOR THE UNION. Die-sinker's name, W. H. KEY, PHILA.

*Rev.* REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES 1864. FOR PRESIDENT, ABRAHAM LINCOLN OF ILLINOIS, FOR VICE PRESIDENT, ANDREW JOHNSON OF TENNESSEE.

(Nos. 30, 31.) *Obv.* Draped bust of Lincoln right. ABRAHAM LINCOLN. Die-sinker, F. B. SMITH, F., N. Y. All within a thick oak wreath.

*Rev.* IF I AM RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT SLAVERY MUST BE ABOLISHED WITH THE REUNION OF STATES in an open olive wreath.

(Nos. 32, 33, 34.) *Obv.* Draped bust of Lincoln right surrounded by thirteen stars. HONEST OLD ABE.

*Rev.* UNION CANDIDATES 1864. FOR PRESIDENT, ABRM. LINCOLN OF ILLINOIS, FOR VICE PRESIDENT AND. JOHNSON OF TENN, in a closed oak wreath.

(No. 55.) *Obv.* Bare bearded bust of Lincoln facing right.  
*Rev.* ABRAHAM LINCOLN. AN HONEST MAN. THE  
CRISIS DEMANDS HIS RE-ELECTION. 1864.

A group of medals (No. 46) must belong to this period for the bust of Lincoln is bearded. They are of peculiar interest on account of the strange legend: REVERSE LINCOLN, which is manifestly a veiled expression of hostility to him. These are the only anti-Lincoln medals in the series. One of them is thus conceived.

(No. 45.) *Obv.* Bare bust of Washington facing right.  
GEORGE WASHINGTON, FIRST IN WAR, FIRST IN  
PEACE AND FIRST IN THE HEARTS OF HIS  
COUNTRYMEN.

*Rev.* Bare bearded bust of Lincoln facing left. REVERSE  
LINCOLN. Around, twelve stars.

### Tradesmen's Tokens, or 'Cards'

The consideration of these interesting pieces has been reserved until now, because they cannot easily be assigned to a given year. The lack of small change was keenly felt during the war, and a large number of merchants and tradesmen undertook to fill the need (and at the same time to advertise their own wares) by putting into circulation metal tokens to serve as money. Some merely enclosed uncancelled postage stamps in metal frames, on which were stamped their advertisement, and these are eagerly sought to day by collectors. The Hewitt collection naturally contains only such pieces as have reference to Lincoln, of which the following may be noted:

(No. 57). *Obv.* Bare bearded bust A. LINCOLN, R. CAND'T FOR PRESIDENT, 1860.

*Rev.* Spread-eagle. D. VENTENS, NEEDLE THREADERS, 178 DUANE ST., N. Y.

(No. 56). *Obv.* ABRA-HAM LIN-COLN, HONEST ABE OF THE WEST. THE HANNIBAL OF AMERICA.

*Rev.* ROBBINS, ROYCE & HARD, JOBBERS OF STAPLE AND FANCY DRY GOODS, 70 READE & 112 DVANE STS., NEW YORK.

(No. 54). *Obv.* Draped bearded bust in high relief.

*Rev.* THE WHITEHEAD AND HOAG CO., NEWARK, N. J.

(No. 52). *Obv.* Draped bearded bust left. A NATION'S BENEFACTOR.

*Rev.* R. H. SINGLETON, BOOKSELLER, STATIONER & JOB PRINTER, P. O. BUILDING, NASHVILLE, TENN.

(No. 48). *Obv.* Draped beardless bust left. ABRAHAM LINCOLN, BORN FEB. 12, 1809.

*Rev.* APOLLO GARDENS 576 WASHINGTON ST. GOOD FOR 6 CENTS. HESS & SPEIDEL.

### The Assassination—and After

Lincoln was shot on April 14th, 1865, and died the next day. The nation and all the world mourned his loss, and here again the medals bear mute testimony.

(No. 14, 15, 16, 17). *Obv.* Bust right. ABRAHAM LINCOLN, 1865.

*Rev.* A broken column inscribed A. L.—HE IS IN GLORY AND THE NATION IN TEARS. BORN FEB. 12, 1809. ASSASSINATED APR. 14, 1865.

(No. 39). *Obv.* Bearded bust left in circle of stars. ABRAHAM LINCOLN, 1864.

*Rev.* A funeral urn inscribed A. L, above. RESURGAM  
["I shall rise again"]. Below, DIED APRIL 15, 1865.  
(No. 36). Bust between oak and olive garlands. ABR'M  
LINCOLN, A FOE TO TRAITORS.

*Rev.* SINE FUCO ET FALLACIA HOMO ["A man without  
pretense or guile."] DIED April 15, 1865.

Attached to the above is the piece of black ribbon  
with which it was worn at Lincoln's funeral.

(No. 45). *Obv.* ABM. LINCOLN, PRESIDENT OF THE  
U. S, DIED APRIL 15, 1865, BY THE HANDS OF A  
REBEL ASSASSIN.

*Rev.* A weeping willow tree and urn. A SIGH THE  
ABSENT CLAIM, THE DEAD A TEAR.

Of great interest is the large bronze medal (No. 3) a  
tribute to Lincoln's memory by the French people.

*Obv.* Bare bust facing left, DEDIÉ PAR LA DÉMOCRATIE  
FRANÇAISE A LINCOLN PRESIDENT DEUX FOIS  
ÉLU DES ÉTATS-UNIS. Beneath die-engraver's name:  
FRANKY MAGNIADAS.

*Rev.* An altar inscribed: LINCOLN L'HONNÈTE HOMME  
ABOLIT L'ESCLAVAGE, RÉTABLIT L'UNION,  
SAUVA LA RÉPUBLIQUE SANS VOILER LA  
STATUE DE LA LIBERTÉ. IL FUT ASSASSINÉ  
LE 14 AVRIL 1865. Winged Hope, resting her right hand  
on an anchor, lays a wreath upon the altar. At the right  
two negroes raise their hands toward the Arms of the  
United States. Below, LIBERTÉ, ÉGALITÉ,  
FRATERNITÉ.

A unique copy in gold was presented to the widow of  
Lincoln by a committee representing forty thousand  
French citizens as a testimony of their sympathy for the

American Union and one of its greatest heroes. The funds were raised by popular subscriptions, limited to two *sous* for each person. The Emperor Napoleon III would not allow the medal to be struck in France, and after some delay it was made in Switzerland.

Two medals of a later time are of very particular interest; the first awarded in 1870 to the first colored man in the United States who voted under the Fifteenth Amendment.

Nos. 20, 21). *Obv.* ABRAHAM LINCOLN. Draped beardless, bust facing r.

*Rev.* PRESENTED BY CITIZENS OF PERTH AMBOY,  
N. J., TO THOMAS PETERSON, THE FIRST  
COLORED VOTER IN THE U. S. UNDER THE  
PROVISIONS OF THE 15th AMENDMENT AT AN  
ELECTION HELD IN THAT CITY MARCH 31st, 1870.

The other (No. 13) is a cheap medal of 1892, which is said to have been offered by subscription to the colored people at one dollar each, the proceeds to be devoted to the building of a great monument in memory of Lincoln, each subscriber to become a member of the 'University' and to be presented with the medal as a proof of his contribution. As nothing has been heard of the scheme since, it is probable that the project failed.

*Obv.* Draped bust r. LINCOLN HALL. WITH MALICE  
TOWARD NONE, WITH CHARITY FOR ALL.

*Rev.* The Dome of the proposed Lincoln Hall, modelled after the Capitol at Washington. THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, INCORPORATED MAY 28, 1881, ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE MAY 25, 1892, MEMBERSHIP SOUVENIR, LINCOLN HALL FUND, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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In conclusion, let us return to the artistic Roiné medals of 1909, the largest and the smallest of the series. In the former (No. 1) we have a full front bust of Lincoln, the features modelled from the death-mask. The production in low relief, with such minuteness and accuracy of detail, yet withal such perfection of perspective, is a veritable triumph both for the sculptor and for the Medallic Art Company of New York which prepared the dies. The latter (No. 58) is a minute reproduction of the Roiné Lincoln Centennial Medal, so tiny that it requires a powerful magnifier to trace the features. It bears the distinction of being the smallest medal of Lincoln in existence.









BY  
HIS HIGH COURAGE.

BY  
STATESWITNESS, AND HIS  
SUPREME QUALITIES.

AS A  
LEADER, AND NOT LESS BY HIS  
CHARITY, HIS TENDERNESS,  
AND  
HIS MAGNAMITY,

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

BELOWS TO THE AGES, AND  
WILL EVER STAND AMONG THE  
WORLD'S BEST, AND  
GREATEST MEN.

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